

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 12-17, 20, 23, 25, 32, 34, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Canniff *et al.* Claims 3-5, 7, 14, 19-22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 33, 36, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Canniff *et al.* in view of Applicants' admitted prior art or other known art. Claims 2, 8-11, 18, 22, 30, 35, 39, 41, 44, 47, and 50 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1, 17, 25, 32, 34, 40, and 52 are being amended. Dependent Claims 41, 44, 47, and 50 are being cancelled. No new matter is being introduced by way of the claim amendments.

Claims 1, 17, 25, 32, and 34 are being amended to include the limitations of dependent Claims 41, 44, 47, and 50, respectively. Claim 40 is being amended to include the same allowable limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) are now moot.

Claims 41, 44, 47, and 50 are being cancelled with this amendment so that prosecution of the application may be furthered in good faith and that allowable Claims 1, 17, 25, 32, and 34 as now amended may pass to issue. Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection of any of the claims and reserve the right to file continuation applications on or otherwise pursue the subject matter of original Claims 1, 17, 25, 32, 34, and 40.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all now pending claims (Claims 1-40, 42-43, 45-46, 48-49, and 51-52) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Mark B. Solomon
Mark B. Solomon
Registration No. 44,348
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 1/8/07